REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Examiner Request

The Examiner has requested identification of any references known to qualify as prior art. In response to this request, Applicant points to the Specification at page 6, lines 1-10 which reference Hewlett-Packard's (now Compaq) AutoRAID product. A recent search of the USPTO web site has turned up some Hewlett Packard AutoRAID patents, so Applicant is submitting herewith an Information Disclosure Statement identifying such references.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by O'Brien et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1 (and dependent claims thereof), Applicant shows that the cited reference does not teach the claimed feature of "a plurality of virtual data units functionally coupled to the one or more hosts, wherein the plurality of virtual data units includes associated management information such that the management information provides first and second boundaries such that the first and second boundaries limit preferences in which to store the virtual data units within the stored data management subsystem". For example, the cited reference does not teach first and second boundaries such that the first and second boundaries *limit preferences in which to store* the virtual data units within the stored data management subsystem. The Examiner cites O'Brien's teaching of two duplicative pointers shown in Figure 16B as reading on "first and second boundaries". Applicants show that the claimed first and second boundaries limit preferences in which to store the virtual data units (see, for example, Specification page 13, lines 6-11). Some preference examples given in the present application include performance, availability, reliability and capacity (Specification page 16, lines 7-24). In

contrast, O'Brien's pointers are merely duplicate pointers to data already stored in memory, and do not in any way limit preferences in which to store data.

Therefore, the rejection of Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been overcome.
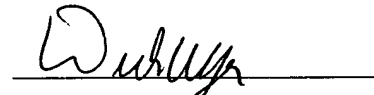
III.   **Conclusion**

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over O'Brien and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: _6(13/03_

Respectfully submitted,

Duke W. Yee
Reg. No. 34,285

Wayne P. Bailey
Reg. No. 34,289
Carstens, Yee & Cahoon, LLP
P.O. Box 802334
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 367-2001
Attorneys for Applicants